

**IVI-IPO 2006 GUBERNATORIAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1**

DATE 1/13/06 PARTY: Democrat

NAME: Rod Blagojevich

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Alonzo Monk

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 10,000 NUMBER REQUIRED: 10,000

*Please use an additional sheet to complete the following background information:*

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates.

Governor of Illinois, 2003-2006  
U.S. Congressman of the 5<sup>th</sup> Illinois District, 1997-2003  
State Representative of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District, 1993-1997

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

Governor of Illinois  
U.S. Congressman of the 5<sup>th</sup> Illinois District  
State Representative of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District

C) What is your primary occupation?  
Governor

D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years.  
My biography is listed at [www.illinos.gov/gov/bio.cfm](http://www.illinos.gov/gov/bio.cfm)

E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign.

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far.  
Illinois Democratic State Central Committee  
Illinois AFL-CIO  
Each of the 102 statewide Democratic County Chairmen

H) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

I believe I should be endorsed by IVI-IPO so that I can continue to make progress in achieving my priorities. In my upcoming State of the State I will reiterate my priorities of the health care, education, jobs and public safety.

We have been able to provide health care coverage for over 400,000 more working families and children. Also, under my All Kids legislation, beginning in July, all children in Illinois will have access to affordable accessible health insurance. I have also made improving women's health a priority and have created and funded programs to help women receive breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer screenings and treatment. We have been able to help Illinois residents without prescription drug coverage to get more affordable drugs from Canada, England, and Ireland through the I-Save Rx program. We have also created Illinois Cares Rx which covers the gaps in drug coverage for low income seniors created by the new Medicare drug program and just this week, we announced that the state would guarantee that all low income seniors could get their drugs immediately while problems with the new federal Medicare drug program are fixed.

We have increased funding for education by \$2.3 billion the last three years and increased the standards for graduating from high school. These new standards mean that our high school students are now better prepared for college and the work place. I am also committed to expanding access to preschool and helping parents afford college tuition.

I am working on passing a capital bill that will improve our roads and update our schools. The projects will also create over 230,000 new jobs in addition to the 66,000 new jobs already created in the last year, the most in any other Midwestern state. We have raised the minimum wage in Illinois to help working families make ends meet. While Illinois's economy is continuing to rebound, I am working to make sure every Illinois citizen has economic security.

We have been working hard to keep Illinois safe. Our efforts on emergency preparedness have won a national award from Harvard and Mitretek. I am also working to reduce crime and improve public safety. I signed the gun show loophole and I am now working with Mayor Daley and gun safety advocates to reinstate the assault weapons ban.

As I work on my priorities, I will continue to make state government more efficient and transparent and put more workers on the front line and less in administrative positions.

**I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?**

We are compiling our the latest fundraising numbers which will be reported January 31, 2006. As of June 30, 2005, we had cash on hand of \$14,378,903.

**J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?**

There are currently 6 full time staff working on the campaign. There are approximately 5,500 names in the volunteer database.

**IVI-IPO 2006 GUBERNATORIAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2**

<b>Elections &amp; Ethics</b>	
	Do you support:
1.	moving the primary election date? Yes. I support ultimately moving the primary date to sometime closer to the general election, in order to increase voter interest in elections, and through this increasing voter participation and turnout.
2.	keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret? Yes.
3.	reestablishing straight party voting in general elections? No.
4.	Any other changes in Illinois' election laws? Yes. I believe that Illinois should enact new campaign finance legislation. Illinois is one of only five states that has no limits on contributions. Last year, I proposed a new legislation that would have provided Illinois with a McCain-Feingold system of campaign finance. It would have limited contributions from individuals and banned corporate contributions. The legislation also included ethics and lobbying reforms.
5.	Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives? I have not reviewed all the pros and cons of returning to cumulative voting but I am open to looking at this issue if I am presented with legislation.
6.	Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting? I have not reviewed all the pros and cons of instant run-off voting but I am open to looking at this issue if I am presented with legislation.
7.	Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Yes. I support moving toward a system of merit selection of judges that maintains and expands the diversity of our judiciary. A truly just court must be as diverse, fair and capable as the people it serves.
8.	Do you believe that appointments to judicial vacancies should be based on nominations from local review panels? I am in favor of a greater role for citizen-based representatives in the selection of judicial candidates. As stated, I believe that we need to ensure that qualified judges are chosen to serve in our state's judiciary, including minimum qualifications and years of experience before an individual can serve and a mechanism to ensure diversity.
	Do you support:
9.	public financing of election campaigns? No. I do not think that the public financing of all statewide campaigns is feasible in these tight economic and budgetary times, and also because U.S. Supreme Court decisions hamper the ability to enforce limits.
10.	limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers? Yes.
11.	restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions? Yes.
12.	limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source? Yes.
	Do you support
13.	legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts?
14.	creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly? I believe that the process is working. Control of the House changed hands twice in the 1990s and the Senate has seen a close split between the political parties in the last few years. This requires compromise and bipartisanship on issues ranging from taxes and spending to social issues.
15.	Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently? No.

16.	<p>Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the State?</p> <p>Our employees do not have outside income that conflicts with their state duties or responsibilities. We have safeguards in place to ensure this.</p>
17.	<p>Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers, employees or outside contractors?</p> <p>I have followed all campaign finance laws and introduced legislation that would have banned all corporate contributions, including suppliers and contractors. I have a policy of not accepting contributions from my employees.</p>
18.	<p>Do you support patronage? Please explain your position.</p> <p>When I was elected, we reduced the headcount despite great pressure from political insiders to fill those positions with their recommendations. We resisted that pressure and the savings that resulted have helped Illinois become the only state to guarantee access to affordable, comprehensive health care to every child.</p>
	Do you support:
19.	<p>instituting a graduated income tax?</p> <p>No. I do not favor any increases in the state income tax. I would explore the possibility of creating a graduated personal exemption for state income taxes for working class families.</p>
20.	<p>increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes and increase state funding of education?</p> <p>Under my administration, we have increased school funding by a total of \$2.3 billion over for the past three years. This includes increasing funding for preschool by nearly \$30 million a year for the last three years. More than ever before, the state's resources are being targeted to school districts and children who need it the most. I believe we need to work with the legislature and the education community to find ways to provide more money to all school districts, particularly those with the greatest needs. But we must do it in a way that eliminates some of the administrative costs and makes sure that additional funds are used in the classroom. In 2004, I called on the Illinois State Board of Education to streamline and reduce their rules, allowing districts to focus their time and energy on the classroom not on administrative burdens.</p>
21.	<p>maintaining the current corporate/individual ratio in income taxes?</p> <p>I do not favor an increase in the state income tax. However, I do not believe that individual taxation should be tied to corporate taxation.</p>
22.	Do you support casino gambling in Cook County?
23.	<p>Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded?</p> <p>Illinois enacted legislation permitting riverboat gambling in 1990, before I became Governor. While I believe that the current system is acceptable, I have not signed any legislation that would expand gambling in Illinois. However, allowing for legal considerations, we have debated the viability of reauctioning the riverboat licenses. I would consider legislation that increases citizen participation.</p>
	Do you support
24.	<p>prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
25.	<p>allow expanded private rights of action?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
26.	<p>allow expanded rights of litigation?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
27.	<p>mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs?</p> <p>Yes.</p>
28.	<p>provide for any other changes?</p> <p>Yes. I will always favorably view changes in the law that increase fair treatment for consumers, and the protection of their rights.</p>
	Do you support legislation

29.	banning Pay Day loans? I signed legislation to regulate the payday loan industry and protect consumers by providing them with more information and greater protections. In addition, my Department of Professional and Financial Regulations have issued stringent rules further regulating the payday loan industry.
30.	banning or restricting ATM fees? Yes.
31.	Capping credit card interest rates? Yes.
32.	What are your economic development plans for Illinois? I am working on passing a capital bill that will improve our roads and update our schools. The projects will also create over 230,000 new jobs in addition to the 66,000 new jobs in the last year, the most in any other Midwestern state. We have raised the minimum wage in Illinois to help working families make ends meet. While Illinois's economy is continuing to rebound, I am working to make sure every Illinois citizen has economic security.
33.	Will you increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs? Under my administration, we have increased funding by \$2.3 billion for the past three years. This includes increased funding for preschool for at risk three and four year olds by nearly \$30 million a year for the last three years which allows an additional 25,000 at risk children to attend preschool each year. I believe we need to work with the legislature and the education community to find ways to help poorer school districts. But we must do it in a way that eliminates some of the administrative costs and makes sure that additional funds are used in the classroom. In 2004, I called on the Illinois State Board of Education to streamline and reduce their rules, allowing districts to focus their time and energy on the classroom not on administrative burdens. Since then, the Board has eliminated approximately 500 pages of rules and reductions, revamped the school report card, eliminated the backlog in teacher certification applications, expanded access to school breakfasts, and is currently working on consolidating school districts. In 2005, I proposed and Illinois now has increased graduation standards for high schools for the first time in over 20 years. This will improve the education and preparation that students throughout Illinois receive and make them more prepared for college or the workforce. Also, we raised the dropout age to 17, and the dropout rate has reached its lowest level since the Board began collecting data on the rate in 1994. In addition, we have made it easier for schools to share administrative costs like procurement and accounting. More than any other Governor in the recent history of Illinois, I've made it a priority to increase funding for schools, and I've done it without increasing taxes on middle-class families.
34.	Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools? No. During my service in the U.S. Congress and as Governor, I have consistently opposed the use of public vouchers for private school tuition
35.	Do you support public funding of charter or contract schools? Chicago Public Schools have made some charter schools part of their reforms. I will review their outcomes before considering any expansion of charter schools.
36.	Do you support Affirmative Action? Yes.
37.	Do you support the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution? Yes.
	Do you favor legislation
38.	legalizing civil marriage between two people of the same gender? I support civil unions to make sure same-sex couples have legal rights with respect to hospital visits, estates and other basic rights.
39.	providing legal recognition of domestic partnerships? Yes.
40.	prohibiting discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together? Yes.

41.	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment? No.
	Do you support mandatory drug testing
42.	for public sector employees? No, with the exception of employees whose duties directly affect the health and safety of others
43.	for private sector employees? No, with the exception of employees whose duties directly affect the health and safety of others.
44.	Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause? No. The State Constitution requires probable cause.
45.	Would you support legislation to include data on pedestrian, as well as motor vehicle, stops by police for the purpose of gathering statistics on racial profiling?
46.	Would you support amending current racial profiling legislation to add collection of data on persons of Middle Eastern origin? This past spring I supported legislation that would have made the collection of racial profiling data permanent. It would have expanded the type of information to be collected by police regarding interactions with civilians. I support the current version of this legislation that will be considered soon. I also convened a racial profiling task force and expect to receive their recommendations soon.
47.	Do you support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the telephone conversations of their employees? Yes.
48.	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause? No.
49.	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth? Yes, I have signed equal pay legislation into law.
50.	Do you support privatization of state services? Even under the tough fiscal times the state faced when I became Governor, we have not privatized state services.
51.	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Illinois? Why or why not? No, unless these services were not available from a company in Illinois.
52.	Do you support the right of public employees to strike? Yes. I support the right of public employees to strike (except in the case of public safety workers like firefighters, so long as their current rights to automatic arbitration are kept intact), and I would oppose any erosion of these rights. In my time as Governor, I have signed more pro-labor legislation than any Governor in Illinois' history.
53.	Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment? Yes.
54.	Do you support family leave legislation for employees of private companies not currently covered by federal law? Yes.
	Do you support
55.	raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers? Yes.
56.	establishing a lower minimum wage for minors? No.
57.	including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws? Yes.

58.	<p>Will you support a single-payer health plan for Illinois?  Providing health care for Illinois residents is one of my major priorities. We have been able to provide health care coverage for over 400,000 more working families and children. Also, under my All Kids legislation, beginning in July, all children in Illinois will have access to affordable accessible health insurance. I have also made improving women’s health a priority and have created and funded programs to help women receive breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer screenings and treatment. We have been able to help Illinois residents without prescription drug coverage to get more affordable drugs from Canada, England, and Ireland through the I-Save Rx program. We have also created Illinois Cares Rx which covers the gaps in drug coverage for low income seniors created by the new Medicare drug program and just this week, we announced that the state would guarantee that all low income seniors could get their drugs immediately while problems with the new federal Medicare drug program are fixed. I also signed the Health Care Justice Act and funded its task force to provide me with recommendations on how to provide health care coverage for all Illinois citizens.</p>
	<p>If so, how would Medicaid be incorporated into the program you support?  We have dramatically expanded Medicaid coverage for working families through the KidCare and FamilyCare programs.</p>
59.	<p>Will you support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?  Yes.</p>
	<p>Do you support:</p>
60.	<p>legislation which would guarantee that abortion remains legal in Illinois, to the extent it is currently available, in the event of Roe v. Wade being overturned or diminished?  Yes.</p>
61.	<p>Medicaid funding for abortions?  Yes.</p>
62.	<p>insurance coverage of abortions for state employees?  Yes.</p>
63.	<p>parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions?  No.</p>
64.	<p>banning so-called partial-birth abortions?  No.</p>
65.	<p>Any other restrictions on abortions? Please specify.  No.</p>
66.	<p>Will you increase appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers?  We have increased the number of caseworkers at DCF and they are currently hiring additional frontline staff.</p>
67.	<p>What services, if any, would you offer to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families?  Our Department of Human Services has many programs in place to help low-income families get the support they need.</p>
68.	<p>Do you favor legislation banning housing discrimination against holders of Section 8 vouchers?  Yes.</p>
	<p>Would you support legislation</p>
69.	<p>mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units?  Yes.</p>
70.	<p>assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions?  Yes.</p>

71.	<p>What criteria would you implement in selecting members of the public utilities and insurance commissions? I have selected candidates for these commissions that are knowledgeable and experienced but most importantly have looked out for the consumers' interest. I recently appointed Marty Cohen as my new Director of Consumer Affairs. I had nominated him to head the ICC but unfortunately, his nomination was not confirmed by the State Senate. He is the former executive director of the Citizen's Utility Board and I believe that he will be a great fighter for all Illinois consumers.</p>
72.	<p>Do you support an elected ICC? I am open to considering this possibly should legislation of this kind be proposed. I have recently appointed former Rockford Mayor Charles E. Box as chair of the Illinois Commerce Commission. Charles Box is a veteran public servant who has shown throughout his distinguished career that he can be fair-minded and makes decisions in the best interest of the public.</p>
73.	<p>Should Illinois institute a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring all energy providers in Illinois to sell minimum amounts of their energy from renewable sources? Yes.</p>
74.	<p>Should Illinois adopt the International Energy Conservation Code for residential buildings? Yes.</p>
75.	<p>Will you support guarantees in the Great Lakes Annex Compact if to restrict out-of-basin diversion of Great Lakes waters? Yes.</p>
76.	<p>Would you support legislation that would provide state technical assistance funds to local communities to help them prepare and implement comprehensive smart growth plans to avoid the costs of rapid unplanned growth and urban sprawl? Yes.</p>
77.	<p>Would you support legislation requiring registration and monitoring of confined feedlot waste treatment/disposal and licensing of third party waste haulers? Yes.</p>
	<p>Do you support</p>
78.	<p>expansion of O'Hare airport? Yes.</p>
79.	<p>expansion of other regional airports? If so, which? Yes. I support any opportunities we may have to use other regional airports to relieve the congestion at O'Hare, and would favor expansion of passenger service from Rockford's airport.</p>
80.	<p>building a new airport in Peotone? Yes.</p>
	<p>Do you support</p>
81.	<p>inter-city high speed rail? Yes. I have been a long-time supporter of the creation of a high-speed rail network in Illinois and throughout the Midwest. In the U.S. Congress, I co-sponsored legislation that would have provided \$12 billion to the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative.</p>
82.	<p>the current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE? We have worked to increase funding for all public transportation throughout the state and I recently proposed a \$425 million capital bill for mass transit. I will also continue to work to see better integration of and cooperation by the various rapid transit systems in their route selection and funding systems. Last year we increased funding for Northeastern Illinois regional transportation and downstate mass transit.</p>
	<p><b>Criminal Justice</b></p>
	<p>Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of</p>
83.	<p>handguns? I have been a leading advocate in the fight for safe gun laws in Illinois and our nation. My position rests on keeping guns out of the wrong hands: criminals, children and other who cannot legally possess firearms. We have been successful in passing the gun show loophole and my vetoes last summer that prevented the</p>

	weakening of gun laws were all upheld (including my veto of legislation that would have destroyed gun records kept by the State Police).
84.	Assault weapons? Yes. Banning assault weapons is one of my key priorities in the upcoming legislative session. We were two votes short in the House last year, and I'm very hopeful we can succeed this time.
	Do you support
85.	legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons? Yes.
86.	legislation permitting the licensing of concealed weapons? No.
87.	legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements? Yes. We were successful in passing legislation eliminating the gun show loophole in the last session of the General Assembly and did it while not allowing the destruction of gun records.
	Do you support:
88.	capital punishment? Yes. As a former prosecutor, I support capital punishment only in cases of the most heinous crimes. However, I have continued the moratorium because I do not believe that it should be reinstated until we can provide assurances that the system has been reformed.
89.	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? Juveniles who commit crimes can and should be punished with respect to the gravity of those crimes. However, I believe that in 99% of those cases, juveniles who commit crimes at such a young and impressionable ages should be handled by the juvenile justice system specifically designed to provide them with every opportunity to reform their lives. That is why I recently signed legislation separating the juvenile justice system from the adult Department of Corrections.
90.	mandatory sentencing? While I do not believe that mandatory sentencing is appropriate for all crimes, as a former prosecutor, I believe that it can act as a deterrent to the commission of serious ones.
91.	work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing? Yes. I support these programs for non-violent offenders who pose no threat to the safety of their community.
92.	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence? No.
93.	electronic eavesdropping? No. I oppose the use of wiretapping without the issuance of a proper warrant, signed by a judge.
94.	roving wiretaps? No.
95.	Do you favor continuation of the current moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois? If not, how would you address the inequities enumerated in the report of the Commission on the Death Penalty? Yes. I favor the continuation of the moratorium until such time as we are confident that the death penalty can be administered with certainty. I have signed legislation that prohibit the execution of people judged to be mentally retarded, require prosecutors to disclose promises made to witnesses in exchange for their testimony, permit the court to decertify a death penalty case if the sole evidence is uncorroborated testimony of a jailhouse informer or accomplice, allow the state Supreme Court to overturn death penalties if the sentenced is deemed fundamentally unjust, creating procedures for line-ups, to make sure the right suspects are identified, permitting a trial judge to set forth reasons for not concurring with a death sentence Mandating investigators turn over all evidence to prosecutors, allowing for DNA testing for any criminal matter, and require the court to consider a defendant's background as a victim of extreme emotional or physical abuse among a host of reforms.